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Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the regular sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2006: the Economic Commission for Europe held its sixty-first session in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2006; the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its sixty-second session in Jakarta from 6 to 12 April 2006; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held its thirty-first session in Montevideo from 20 to 24 March 2006; the Economic Commission for Africa held the thirty-ninth session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Ouagadougou on 14 and 15 May 2006; and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia held its twenty-fourth Ministerial session in Beirut from 8 to 11 May 2006.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Council

A. Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its sixty-first session, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2006, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council:

Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe, in formal segment, at its meeting of 2 December 2005, of the workplan on reform of the Commission,[1] and noting also the adoption by the Commission, at its sixty-first session, held in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2006, of its revised rules of procedure,[2]

Noting also the provisional adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe at its sixty-first session of the revised terms of reference of the Commission,[2] pending their endorsement by the Economic and Social Council,

Noting further that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248 of 23 December 2005, welcomed the workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe, decided that the Commission should implement the adopted measures and, to that end, requested the Secretary-General to allocate the requisite resources within section 19, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007,[3]

1. *Endorses* the workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe,[1] as set out in annex I of the present resolution;

2. *Also endorses* the revised terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Europe,[2] as set out in annex II of the present resolution.

Annex I

Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe

1. Based on the recommendations on the role, mandate and functions of the Economic Commission for Europe as reflected in the report on the state of the Commission, the Commission adopts the following decision:

I. Mission statement

2. The Economic Commission for Europe as a multilateral platform facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its fifty-five member States and promotes sustainable development and economic prosperity through:

(a) Policy dialogue;

[1] E/ECE/1434/Rev.1.
[2] E/ECE/1437.
[3] A/60/6(Sect. 19).

(b) Negotiation of international legal instruments;

(c) Development of regulations and norms;

(d) Exchange and application of best practices as well as economic and technical expertise;

(e) Technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition.

3. The Economic Commission for Europe contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through the regional implementation of outcomes of global United Nations conferences and summits.

II. Governance structure

4. The governance structure shall be reformed in order to enhance accountability, transparency and the horizontal coherence of the activities of the organization with a view to enabling the organization to better respond to the needs of its member States.

5. The existing terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe will be amended accordingly.

A. The Commission

6. The Commission is the highest decision-making body of the organization.

7. It is responsible for taking strategic decisions on the programme of work of the Commission and the allocation of resources without prejudice to the competence of the Fifth Committee.

8. It also provides a forum for a policy dialogue at a high level on economic development for the region.

9. The Commission meets once every two years in Geneva as of 2007, taking into account the provisions of rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure. At its 2009 session, the Commission will review the reform of the Commission including the question of frequency of its sessions.

10. The Commission is chaired by the representative of the country elected by the Commission for the period of the biennium. The Chair is assisted by two Vice-Chairs who will be the representatives of two countries elected at the same session.

B. The Executive Committee

11. The implementation of the overall guidance set by the Commission is entrusted to the Executive Committee.

12. Representatives of all States members of the Commission participate in the Executive Committee.

13. The Chairs of the Sectoral Committees — or the Vice-Chairs — are regularly invited to the meetings of the Executive Committee.

14. The Executive Secretary or his representative takes part in the meetings of the Executive Committee.

15. The Executive Committee is presided by a representative of the country that chairs the Commission. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is assisted by two Vice-Chairs elected by the Executive Committee, for a period of one year, the term being renewable.

16. In the period between the biennial sessions of the Commission, the Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Commission and can seize itself of all matters related to Commission activities in conformity with the terms of reference.

17. In particular, the Executive Committee:

(a) Prepares the sessions of the Commission;

(b) Reviews, evaluates and approves in due time the programmes of work of the sectoral committees, including intersectoral activities and relations with other international organizations, based on the criteria that shall be defined by the Executive Committee and that shall include coherence with the overall objective of the Commission, coordination with other subprogrammes and resource implications;

(c) Approves the set-up, renewal, discontinuance, terms of reference and workplans of groups under the Sectoral Committees, based on the criteria of their relevance to the subprogramme, resource implications, and avoidance of duplication and overlap in respect of the activities of the Commission;

(d) Examines with the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Sectoral Committees, their report on the implementation of their programme of work and other relevant issues;

(e) Ensures coherence between subprogrammes, inter alia, by encouraging horizontal communication within the organization;

(f) Deals with all matters related to programme planning, administrative and budget issues, including extrabudgetary funding;

(g) Discusses with the Executive Secretary, initiatives taken by the Secretariat and the work undertaken by the Office of the Executive Secretary.

18. The ad hoc informal sessions of the Commission, the Bureau of the Commission, the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, and the Steering Committee are hereby discontinued. The governance role formerly filled by these bodies shall be performed by the Executive Committee. The existing monthly briefings by the Secretariat will be replaced by a regular briefing which shall take place as a rule during the meetings of the Executive Committee.

19. The Executive Committee meets when necessary.

20. All decisions are adopted in formal sessions. For formal sessions, interpretation shall be provided and documentation for decision shall be available in all official languages of the Commission. The Executive Committee may also meet in informal mode.

21. The terms of reference and the rules of procedure of the Executive Committee shall be adopted by the Commission.

C. The Sectoral Committees

22. The reference to "Principal subsidiary bodies" is discontinued and replaced by reference to "Sectoral Committees".

23. Each subprogramme of the programme of work is attributed to a Sectoral Committee.

24. Each Sectoral Committee is responsible for the preparation and implementation of its programme of work under the conditions defined by the Commission and the Executive Committee. The terms of reference of the Sectoral Committees shall be approved by the Commission.

25. The Sectoral Committees are the following:

(a) Committee on Environmental Policy;

(b) Committee on Inland Transport;

(c) Committee on Statistics, further referred to as the Conference of European Statisticians;

(d) Committee on Sustainable Energy;

(e) Committee on Trade;

(f) Committee on Timber;

(g) Committee on Housing and Land Management;

(h) Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration.

26. All Committees shall have reviewed by the end of February 2007:

(a) Their subsidiary intergovernmental bodies in accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within the Commission,[4] which shall have been previously reviewed by member States;

(b) Conference servicing needs, with a view to rationalizing them, and shall submit proposals on possible streamlining to the Executive Committee.

27. The Sectoral Committees report once a year and upon request to the Executive Committee, through a meeting with their Chair and Vice-Chairs.

28. Sectoral Committees will jointly prepare and submit proposals to the Executive Committee on issues and activities of common interest.

D. The Secretariat

29. The Secretariat services the intergovernmental structure entrusted with the implementation of the programme of work.

III. Priorities of the programme of work

30. In order to respond to the actual needs expressed by member States, the programme of work will be restructured. Elements of the subprogrammes of work that are not mentioned below will be maintained. This reform will be implemented within existing budgetary resources.

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[4] E/ECE/1407/Add.1.

A. Environment subprogramme

31. The subprogramme shall increase its focus on:

(a) Member States' implementation of their decisions and commonly agreed goals, including those adopted in the Environment for Europe process, the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) Environment Strategy, and the Commission's environmental conventions;

(b) Strengthening work on environmental performance reviews and environmental monitoring and assessment, which lays the necessary foundation for evaluating environmental protection and the implementation of these decisions.

32. Greater efforts shall be directed towards the implementation of the Commission's environmental programme, notably through further capacity-building and workshops at subregional levels.

33. The Committee on Environmental Policy shall study ways and means to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and all other relevant United Nations institutions and international organizations in order to optimize the implementation of the programme of work in the region and shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

34. The Committee on Environmental Policy shall, in cooperation with the Committee on Inland Transport and in consultation with the World Health Organization, strengthen activities relating to: (a) the Transport Health and Environment Pan European Programme (PEP), including sustainable financing and staffing for the clearing house; and (b) environmental aspects of transportation and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

B. Transport subprogramme

35. The Committee on Inland Transport shall strengthen activities in the fields of border-crossing and trade facilitation in cooperation with the Committee on Trade and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

36. The Committee on Inland Transport shall, in cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy and in consultation with the World Health Organization, strengthen activities relating to: (a) the Transport Health and Environment Pan European Programme, including sustainable financing and staffing for the clearing house and (b) environmental aspects of transportation, and submit proposals thereon to the Executive Committee.

37. The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means of monitoring and strengthening the implementation of the Commission's key legal instruments on transport, including on road safety.

38. The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen Euro-Asia transport links.

39. The Committee on Inland Transport shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means:

(a) To strengthen the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention);[5]

(b) To improve transparency in managing the TIR Convention.

C. Subprogramme on statistics

40. The coordination of international statistical work, methodological work and technical cooperation activities shall be strengthened.

41. In order to provide member States with user-oriented statistics, the Conference of European Statisticians shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the actual production of statistics of member States. The contents of the online database shall be reviewed and improved accordingly.

42. The functioning and accessibility of the online database shall be improved in order to facilitate the dissemination of statistics.

43. The publication of "Trends" is discontinued. The production of other publications shall be reviewed by the Conference of European Statisticians which will submit proposals to the Executive Committee.

44. The resources allocated to the processing of data by this subprogramme shall be reduced owing to the overall reduction of activities in the field of economic analysis.

D. Subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration

45. This subprogramme will address key aspects of economic development and integration and focus mainly on countries with economies in transition in order to:

(a) Deliver policy advice;

(b) Facilitate policy dialogue, and exchange of experience and best practices;

(c) Develop guidelines.

46. To this extent, the subprogramme will deal with:

(a) Application of experience gained, lessons learned and best practices conducive to economic growth and innovative development. This work shall be demand-driven and focused on specific topics and may be entrusted by the Committee to external experts and relevant organizations and institutions, in particular those from countries with economies in transition. The initial list to be considered by the Committee may include such issues as:

(i) Promoting effective public investment and regulatory policies;

(ii) Strengthening the competitiveness of the economy through innovative development;

(iii) Development of financial systems and services;

(iv) Application and adaptation of economic analysis;

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1079, No. 16510.

(b) Elaboration of recommendations aimed at creating a policy, financial and regulatory environment conducive to economic development, investment and innovation through:

(i) Creation and development of enterprises and entrepreneurship;

(ii) Promotion of knowledge-based economies and innovation;

(iii) Promotion of an effective system of protection of intellectual property rights;

(iv) Promotion of corporate governance, rule of law and public-private partnerships through the improvement of transparency and investor confidence, including the establishment of guidelines thereto;

(c) Definition by the Sectoral Committee of the modalities of the integration of existing activities in the new subprogramme, with a view to continuing valuable work in the areas mentioned above, with the Sectoral Committee reporting to the Executive Committee.

47. Networks of experts, advisers and decision-makers shall be set up in order to provide a platform for exchange of national policy experiences and development of standards and best models on these matters.

48. The activities of this subprogramme shall build, inter alia, on the results of the work carried out by other relevant organizations and institutions operating in this field, including United Nations organizations, with which synergies should be improved.

49. Based on the overall framework above, member States shall approve the strategic framework no later than end of March 2006 and the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration shall submit proposals on its terms of reference and programme of work to the Executive Committee for approval as soon as possible and, at the latest, within one year from the date of the adoption of the present decision.

50. The Executive Committee will review the subprogramme on economic cooperation and integration no later than three years from the date of the adoption of the present decision with a view to assessing whether the level of resources is appropriate and optimizing the programme if necessary.

51. A regional adviser shall be allocated to this subprogramme.

E. Subprogramme on sustainable energy

52. The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall streamline its activities and improve cooperation with other relevant institutions, in particular the International Energy Agency and the Energy Charter process. This cooperation could take the form of joint activities, memoranda of understanding, and participation of members of other relevant organizations in the activities of the subprogramme and vice versa.

53. The Committee on Sustainable Energy shall strengthen activities in the fields of energy efficiency, cleaner energy production, energy security and diversification of energy sources, taking into account environmental concerns. Special attention should be given to cooperation with the Committee on Environmental Policy, the Committee on Inland Transport and the Committee on Timber.

F. Trade development subprogramme

54. Activities in the field of trade facilitation shall continue and focus on supporting the development of standards carried out by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business.

55. The Committee on Trade shall review the programme on regulatory cooperation and standardization policies.

56. The activities in the field of agricultural quality standards shall be strengthened. Consultations shall be initiated with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in order to concentrate the activities of the two organizations within the Economic Commission for Europe.

57. The Sectoral Committee is renamed the "Committee on Trade".

58. The subprogramme is renamed the "Trade subprogramme".

G. Timber subprogramme

59. The Committee on Timber shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the development of increased cooperation between the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe and the Commission, and shall explore the possibility of a formal framework for this cooperation.

60. The Committee on Timber shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on ways and means to strengthen its monitoring and analysis activities relating to forest policy and institutions.

61. The subprogramme is renamed the "Subprogramme on timber and forestry".

H. Human settlements subprogramme

62. The following programme elements are discontinued:

(a) Development of human settlements statistics;

(b) Major trends characterizing human settlements development.

63. The activities and related resources in the field of real estate (currently carried out under the Industrial restructuring and enterprise development subprogramme) shall be integrated in the subprogramme. The Sectoral Committee shall submit proposals to the Executive Committee on the modalities of this integration.

64. The activities and related resources in the field of population (currently carried out under the economic analysis subprogramme) shall be integrated in the subprogramme.

65. The subprogramme is renamed the "Subprogramme on housing, land management and population".

66. The Sectoral Committee is renamed the "Committee on Housing and Land Management".

67. The intergovernmental governance of population activities shall be assured by the Executive Committee.

I. Economic analysis and industrial restructuring and enterprise development subprogrammes

68. These subprogrammes as well as the related intergovernmental structures will be discontinued.

IV. Technical cooperation

69. Technical cooperation, which forms an integral part of the Commission's activities, has to focus on the countries with economies in transition and has to be demand-driven.

70. The Commission's technical cooperation shall concentrate on the sectors where the Commission has in-house expertise and comparative advantage over other organizations. It should be coherent with and support the implementation of the agreed work programmes.

71. The coordination of the Commission's technical cooperation shall be ensured by the Technical Cooperation Unit reporting directly to the Executive Secretary with appropriate resources for carrying out its functions.

72. The intergovernmental governance of technical cooperation shall be assured by the Executive Committee.

73. The impact of the Technical Cooperation Strategy,[6] endorsed by the Commission at its annual session of 2004, shall be assessed by the Executive Committee and the Strategy will be reviewed if necessary.

74. Member States shall review, no later than two months after the adoption of this decision, the resource allocation among subprogrammes concerning the regular programme of technical cooperation (section 23 of the regular budget) as foreseen in the decision related to this subject.[7]

75. The use of the Commission's regional advisers shall be strengthened by enabling their participation in capacity-building activities.

76. Evaluations of separate subprogrammes' technical cooperation activities shall be conducted on a regular basis. A common policy and practice for these evaluations shall be implemented.

V. Cross-sectoral issues

A. Millennium Development Goals

77. In order to contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the Commission shall:

(a) Offer a platform to all stakeholders for sharing their information, views and experience, and for improving the coordination of these activities;

(b) Set up and maintain a database on Millennium Development Goal indicators using the database and dissemination infrastructure of the statistical subprogramme.

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[6] See E/ECE/1411/Add.1.

[7] Contained in document E/ECE/1430/Add.1.

78. The Commission shall cooperate with the United Nations Development Programme to this extent and within existing resources.

B. Gender issues

79. The Commission shall pay particular attention to the gender dimension of development, as a priority cross-cutting theme, by identifying good practices in further mainstreaming gender issues in its various subprogrammes and activities, taking into account the economic areas addressed by the regional review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.[8] This should apply across both regular and operational activities.

C. The private sector and non-governmental organizations

80. The Sectoral Committees shall review and report to the Executive Committee on the involvement of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in order to strengthen and further improve their relationship and to increase resources and contributions of expertise with a view to optimizing the implementation of the programme of work.

VI. Relations with other organizations

81. In order to increase the impact of its work, the Commission shall reinforce its cooperation with key international organizations and institutions in all relevant areas of its work.

82. In particular, regular consultation shall be fostered with other pan-European organizations.

83. In addition to the specific cooperations identified under the different subprogrammes, the cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme should be strengthened. The Secretariat shall explore ways and means to improve the synergy between the organization and the Programme.

84. The Economic Commission for Europe shall seek to reinforce partnerships with other United Nations regional commissions, in particular the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The Secretariat shall assess the possibilities for strengthening the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia.

85. The Secretariat shall keep member States informed of these proceedings through the Executive Committee.

86. The implementation of the memorandum of understanding with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is entrusted to the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Executive Committee shall monitor this implementation.

87. After consultations with other organizations and upon the recommendation of the Secretariat, the Executive Committee shall decide on the opportunity for the Commission's engagement in the development of an early warning mechanism.

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[8] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

VII. Management

A. Coordination tasks

88. The Office of the Executive Secretary is entrusted with:

(a) The follow-up of the implementation of horizontal and sectoral issues arising from the relevant multilateral commitments such as those made at the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and United Nations global conferences and summits, as well as the provision of inputs required by these global bodies and by the Secretary-General;

(b) The coordination of intersectoral and cross-sectoral activities;

(c) The coordination of Commission inputs into the monitoring of implementation of the commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the fields of economics and the environment;

(d) Reporting to the Executive Committee on the progress in the implementation of any follow-up of agreed measures.

B. Programme planning and budget

89. The Commission shall strengthen its programme planning, monitoring and evaluation resources and improve the training of its managers in the application of pertinent skills.

90. A dedicated unit for planning, monitoring and evaluation shall be established and attached to the Office of the Executive Secretary in order to secure the continuous involvement of senior management.

91. To facilitate the assessment of programme performance:

(a) The strategic framework (biennial programme plan) will be consolidated with the programme budget narratives in order to emphasize the linkage between expected accomplishments and outputs financed by the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds;

(b) In its reporting to the Executive Committee, the Secretariat shall provide, in a user-friendly format, complete information about the allocation of resources from the regular budget and of extrabudgetary resources to the subprogrammes and programme items within their respective programmes of work.

92. The Sectoral Committees together with the Secretariat will take into account the results of the assessment and evaluations when preparing the strategic frameworks for their respective subprogrammes and, subsequently, the programme narratives.

93. The Secretariat shall provide information to the Executive Committee on cost implications for any programmatic changes proposed for the next biennium during the preparatory process of the programme budget.

94. Any change in resources (both regular and extrabudgetary) materializing after the adoption of the programme budget by the General Assembly shall be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

C. Monitoring and evaluation, including reporting on performance

95. The Sectoral Committees shall provide complete information concerning the allocation of resources according to programme items within the programme of work of their respective subprogrammes.

96. The Executive Committee shall examine the advisability of developing "downstream" indicators with the Secretariat so as to better reflect actual accomplishments of the Commission, in particular relating to the use and relevance of the Commission's soft legislation tools, norms and standards.

97. The Commission shall develop and streamline its evaluation functions and practices in conformity with the relevant decision of the Commission[9] and in compliance with the instructions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. This also applies to technical cooperation activities.

D. Human resources

98. The Executive Secretary shall:

(a) Improve communication, coordination and cooperation across the divisions and subprogrammes;

(b) Promote, through human resources management, staff mobility and skill enhancement in order to ensure that staff members periodically change divisions and subprogrammes, and encourage staff members to gain experience in other United Nations and international organizations, as well as in the field.

99. The Secretariat shall provide systematic programme planning, monitoring and evaluation training to its programme managers, in particular in cooperation with the Management Consulting Section of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Priority will be given to such training in the training budget allocated to the Commission.

100. The Secretariat shall analyse the merits of using the United Nations Office for Project Services for the implementation of its extrabudgetary projects and will present suggestions to the Executive Committee.

E. Public relations, communication and corporate image

101. To improve its own corporate image and to attract more attention to its achievements, the Secretariat shall enhance its communications, public relations and contacts with the media by making more and better-targeted materials and publications available on the Internet in all official languages of the Commission and producing appropriate printed materials in quantities that correspond to actual demand.

102. To improve its communication with member States the Secretariat shall update, in consultation with member States, the lists of its contacts in government agencies and among governmental experts and address its communications at the appropriate level and through transparent channels.

[9] E/ECE/1415/Add.1.

VIII. Resources

103. The redeployment shall be implemented within existing resources.

104. The abolition of the subprogrammes on Economic analysis (excluding the Population Activities Unit) and industrial restructuring and enterprise development will free:

(a) One D and 12 P posts from Economic analysis;

(b) Four P posts from industrial restructuring and enterprise development;

(c) Two P posts from statistics (owing to the reduction of activities related to Economic analysis),

for a total of one D and eighteen P posts.

105. These posts are redeployed to strengthen other subprogrammes/entities. The redeployments, with their justification given through reference to the relevant paragraph(s) of the present annex, are as follows:

(a) Environment: two P posts (paragraphs 31, 32, 34 and 53);

(b) Transport: two P posts (paragraphs 35-39 and 53);

(c) Statistics: one P post (paragraphs 40-42 and 77);

(d) Economic cooperation and integration: one D and eight P posts (paragraphs 45-51);

(e) Sustainable energy: one P post (paragraph 53);

(f) Trade development: one P post (paragraphs 35 and 56);

(g) Timber: one P post (paragraphs 53, 59 and 60);

(h) Office of the Executive Secretary and information activities: two P posts (paragraphs 86, 89-94, 97 and 101),

for a total of one D and eighteen P posts.

Annex II

Draft revised terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Economic Commission for Europe

Terms of reference

1. The Economic Commission for Europe, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development and integration of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.

4. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matter within its competence directly to its member Governments, Governments admitted in a consultative capacity under paragraph 8 below, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the prior consideration of the Economic and Social Council any of its proposals for activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

5. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

6. The Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year, and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.[10]

7. A complete list of countries members of the Economic Commission for Europe is contained in the appendix to the present annex.

8. The Commission may admit, in a consultative capacity, European nations that are not States Members of the United Nations, and shall determine the conditions under which they may participate in its work, including the question of voting rights in the subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

9. Cancelled.

10. Cancelled.

11. The Commission shall invite any State Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

12. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organizations to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practices of the Economic and Social Council.

13. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations that have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the

[10] The Economic and Social Council decided, in its resolution 232 (IX) of 12 July 1949, that "it does not, for the present, require the Commission to submit interim reports to each session, in accordance with point 6 of its terms of reference".

Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968, parts I and II.14.

14. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies.

15. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairman.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the United Nations Secretariat.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at the seat of the European Office of the United Nations.

19. Cancelled.

20. The Economic and Social Council shall, from time to time, undertake special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Rules of procedure

Chapter I

Sessions

Rule 1

Sessions of the Commission shall be held:

(a) On dates fixed by the Commission, after consultation with the Executive Secretary, at previous meetings;

(b) Within thirty days of the communication of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, after consultation with the Executive Secretary;

(d) On such other occasions as the Chairperson, in consultation with the Vice-Chairpersons and the Executive Secretary, deems necessary.

Rule 2

Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Commission may, with the concurrence of the Secretary-General, decide to hold a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 3

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session of the Commission, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with a copy of the provisional agenda. The basic documents relating to

each item appearing in the provisional agenda of a session shall be transmitted not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, with the provision that, in exceptional cases, the Executive Secretary may, for reasons to be stated in writing, transmit such documents not less than twenty-one days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4

The Commission shall invite any State Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that State.

Chapter II

Agenda

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairperson, the two Vice-Chairpersons and the Executive Committee.

Rule 6

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Any other items that the Chairperson or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 7

The first item in the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

Representation and credentials

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Chapter IV

Officers

Rule 12

The Commission shall, at each biennial session, elect a country from among its members to hold the chair for the period of the biennium. The representative of the elected country will be the Chairperson. The Commission will also, at the same meeting, elect two countries whose representatives will become the Vice-Chairpersons for the period of the biennium.

Rule 13

If the Chairperson is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, one of the Vice-Chairpersons, designated by the Chairperson, shall preside.

Rule 14

If the representative of the country holding the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Commission ceases to represent his or her country, the new representative of that country shall become the new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term. If the representative of the country holding the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson is so incapacitated that he or she can no longer hold office, the alternate representative shall become the new Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 15

The Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairperson.

Rule 16

The Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson acting as Chairperson shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such and not as the representative of the member by whom he or she was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

Intersessional committee (Executive Committee)

Rule 17

The Commission shall adopt the terms of reference and the rules of procedure of its intersessional governing committee (Executive Committee) and may amend these when necessary. The Commission provides general guidance to the Executive Committee.

Chapter VI

Subsidiary bodies other than the intersessional committee

Rule 18

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continuously acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 19

The Commission may establish or discontinue such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 20

Subsidiary bodies shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Rule 21

Subsidiary bodies should, as in rules 52 and 53, consult those non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that, because of their importance as regards their activity and the number of their members in Europe, play a part in the economic life of Europe, on questions within the competence of the Commission and deemed of interest to such organizations. These organizations could in appropriate cases be invited to be represented at meetings of subsidiary bodies.[11]

[11] The present rule cannot be regarded as implying, between the non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, any discrimination contrary to the decision and rules of the General Assembly or of the Council.

Chapter VII

Secretariat

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. He or she may appoint another member of the staff to take his or her place at any meeting.

Rule 23

The Executive Secretary or his or her representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 24

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, and its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 25

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements, being made for meetings.

Rule 26

The Executive Secretary, in carrying out his or her functions, shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Chapter VIII

Conduct of business

Rule 27

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 28

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the Chairperson shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, shall ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairperson may also call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 29

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case the Chairperson shall immediately state his or her ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairperson shall forthwith submit his or her ruling to the Commission for decision and it shall stand, unless overruled.

Rule 30

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 31

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his or her wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 32

The Chairperson shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairperson shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 33

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 34

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 35

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 36

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 37

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or proposal to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter IX

Voting

Rule 38

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 39

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 40

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 41

The Commission shall normally vote by show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 42

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot, unless, in the absence of any objection, the Commission decides to proceed without taking a ballot on an agreed candidate or slate.

Rule 43

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Chapter X

Languages

Rule 44

English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Interventions made in any of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter XI

Records

Rule 46

Suspended

Rule 47

Suspended

Rule 48

Suspended

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions taken by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other States Members of the United Nations and to the specialized agencies.

Chapter XII

Publicity of meetings

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or particular meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XIII

Consultation with specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency

Rule 51

(a) Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters that are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

(b) Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters that are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

(c) Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XIV

Relations with non-governmental organizations

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general or in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings as are concerned with matters within

their field of competence. Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Council may circulate to the members of the Commission written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence. Non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Council or on the Roster may submit such statements and suggestions to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall prepare and distribute at each session of the Commission a list of such communications received, briefly indicating the substance of each of them. Upon the request of any member of the Commission, the Executive Secretary shall reproduce in full and distribute any such communication.

Rule 53

The Commission at its discretion may consult with non-governmental organizations in general or in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or on the Roster on matters concerning which the Commission regards these organizations as having special competence or knowledge. Such consultations may be arranged at the invitation of the Commission or at the request of the organization. In the case of non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, consultations should normally be held with the Commission itself. In the case of non-governmental organizations in special consultative status or on the Roster, consultations might be effected either directly or through ad hoc committees.

Chapter XV

Reports

Rule 54

The Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year, and shall make interim reports at each regular session of the Council.[12]

Chapter XVI

Amendments and suspensions

Rule 55

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

[12] The Council decided, in its resolution 232 (IX) of 12 July 1999, that "it does not, for the present, require the Commission to submit interim reports to each session, in accordance with point 6 of its terms of reference".

Appendix

List of countries members of the Economic Commission for Europe

(as of 9 January 2006)

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Canada
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel[13]
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uzbekistan

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

2. At its thirty-first session, held in Montevideo from 20 to 24 March 2006, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) approved the following two draft resolutions for adoption by the Council:

Draft resolution I
Admission of Japan as a member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

[13] Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/72, Israel became a member of the Commission on 26 July 1991, on a temporary basis.

Bearing in mind that the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean was established by the Economic and Social Council by its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February 1948, in which the Council stated that membership in the Commission should be open to States Members of the United Nations in Northern, Central and South America and in the Caribbean area and to France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Bearing in mind also that the Commission was established on the basis of the participation by all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, plus those that had special relations with the region of a historical, cultural, geographical or economic nature,

Recalling that, in that spirit, the Commission subsequently admitted, as members, Spain, in 1979, Portugal, in 1984, Italy, in 1990, and Germany, in 2005,

Considering that the Government of Japan has communicated to the Commission, through the Executive Secretary, its desire to be admitted as a member of the Commission,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the request from the Government of Japan that it be admitted to membership of the Commission;

2. *Approves* the admission of Japan as a member of the Commission and authorizes the amendment of paragraph 3 (a) of the terms of reference of the Commission to include the name of Japan after that of Italy.

Draft resolution II
Venue of the thirty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of the Dominican Republic to host the thirty-second session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of the Dominican Republic for its generous invitation;

2. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean of this invitation with pleasure;

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-second session in Santo Domingo in 2008.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

3. At its sixty-second session, held in Jakarta from 6 to 12 April 2006, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) adopted several resolutions and decisions, which are brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 62/1
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

4. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific welcomed efforts of countries that had developed their national development strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and invited countries that had not yet done so to make concrete efforts in that regard, and took note with appreciation of the regional partnership between the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing regular budget resources, or through voluntary contributions, to strengthen regional policy dialogue for development in cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, and relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Asian Development Bank, and to continue to assist members and associate members in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Resolution 62/2
Jakarta Declaration on enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development, including that related to disaster management

5. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited members and associate members to formulate and implement policies for infrastructure development that would take into account providing benefits to the poor and to people in rural areas; to enhance efficiency and quality of infrastructure facilities and services; to implement good public and corporate governance principles through provision of transparent legal frameworks for private sector involvement; to create an enabling environment for the promotion of public-private partnerships at the national and regional levels and for the active participation of relevant stakeholders; to develop strategies taking into account safety and environmental concerns; to promote efforts to increase resources based on principles of sustainable development; to strengthen preparedness in disaster risk management through education and the sharing of expertise, including through the United Nations "White Helmets" initiative; and to promote the use of microfinance for infrastructure development.

6. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to promote appropriate instruments and modalities for enhancing regional cooperation in infrastructure development through capacity-building, technical cooperation and promotion of intermodality components, including maritime infrastructure; to forge cooperation with United Nations bodies, development

agencies, multilateral financing institutions and donors with a view to strengthening global partnerships; to assist members and associate members in developing policy responses to promote renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources; to ascertain the views of member States with respect to identifying and addressing investment needs; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the Declaration.

Resolution 62/3
Implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2012), and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development

7. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited all members and associate members to participate actively in the implementation of the Bali Declaration and the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2006-2012), including the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Tourism Development; to identify areas for action to enhance the contribution of tourism to socio-economic development and poverty reduction; to consider appointing a focal point responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level; to promote the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism adopted at the thirteenth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization (see document E/2001/61, annex); to support tourism-related local economic activities, including access to capital through microfinancing; and to promote women's empowerment by facilitating access to financing. The Commission also invited all United Nations bodies, multilateral and regional financial institutions, donors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to provide technical and/or financial support for implementing the Plan of Action.

8. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to accord priority to the secretariat's activities in the area of tourism; to encourage implementation of the Regional Action Programme; to conduct a regional study on the role of tourism in socio-economic development for consideration by the Commission at its sixty-third session; to disseminate case studies and good practices in utilizing tourism in the poverty reduction process; to undertake activities described in the Regional Action Programme in five thematic areas; to support subregional initiatives, in particular through the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism, and to promote participation of national experts in the Commission's technical cooperation activities; to enhance the capacity of members to promote tourist safety, security and comfort; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Resolution 62/4
Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

9. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network and invited all relevant members of the Commission to become parties to the Agreement in order to ensure its rapid entry into force. The Commission invited international and regional financing institutions and donors to consider providing further support for the development of the Railway network, and invited international organizations to collaborate with members of the Commission in promoting the operationalization of the network. The Commission encouraged landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to work together to enable the Trans-Asian Railway and Asian Highway networks to provide opportunities within the scope of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries.[1]

10. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing budgetary resources, to serve as a facilitator for member countries in the process of becoming parties to the Agreement; to accord priority to the Railway within the Commission's programme of work; to collaborate with financing institutions and donors in the development of the network; to continue to work towards the development of an integrated transport network in Asia, as well as the development of an integrated Euro-Asian transport system in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe and other organizations; to discharge the functions of the secretariat of the Agreement; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 62/4.

Resolution 62/5
Building the information society in Asia and the Pacific

11. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited all members and associate members to participate in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, by promoting regional cooperation and creating an enabling environment for the application of technology and development of the information society, and invited international and regional organizations, including members of the Regional Inter-agency Working Group on Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to cooperate with the Commission in the implementation of the Summit outcomes. The Commission also invited financial institutions and donors to contribute to the resources for implementation. The Commission welcomed the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific in 2007.

12. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to undertake actions using a multi-stakeholder approach, to promote exchange of best practices at the regional level and to facilitate policy debate with a focus on attaining the Millennium Development Goals; to organize expert group meetings, in

[1] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

coordination with the International Telecommunication Union and other organizations, to promote capacity-building in developing countries; to assist member States in the development of regional strategies and the implementation of outcomes of regional conferences; to continue the coordination of activities at the regional level of all United Nations and international organizations, including through the Regional Inter-agency Working Group on ICT; to build capacity consistent with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and encourage the efforts of all stakeholders, especially partnership among Governments, the private sector and civil society, in transforming the digital divide; to continue preparations for the Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific as a mechanism for regional follow-up to the World Summit; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 62/5.

Resolution 62/6
Managing globalization through strengthened regional cooperation in trade and investment

13. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to continue efforts, in collaboration with regional and global partners, to undertake policy-oriented analytical work and provide technical assistance to Commission members in increasing their capacity: to negotiate and implement multilateral and regional trade agreements, focusing on the World Trade Organization/Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Programme of Technical Assistance for Asia and the Pacific; to formulate and implement trade facilitation and e-commerce practices; to create a domestic policy environment conducive to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises; and to promote a competitive knowledge-based economy through the development of science-based knowledge.

14. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to continue to evaluate regional and bilateral trade agreements; to take measures, upon the entry into force of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement, to strengthen the Agreement; to continue to organize policy dialogues on managing globalization, including through the Asia-Pacific Business Forum; to undertake trade capacity-building assistance, according priority to the needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 62/6.

Resolution 62/7
Strengthening regional cooperation and coordination of early warning system arrangements for tsunamis through the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia

15. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific emphasized the importance of international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, as regards the planning, implementation and knowledge-sharing, in respect of regional tsunami early warning systems, and recognized the important role of the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia as a means of contributing to the efforts of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization through resource mobilization. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited Governments, donor countries, relevant organizations and financial institutions, as well as the private sector and civil society, to consider contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund, and requested the Executive Secretary to ensure that the Voluntary Trust Fund was administered efficiently and transparently. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited members and associate members to accord priority to the mitigation of all natural disasters.

Resolution 62/8
Implementation of the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade

16. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific noted with satisfaction that a number of members of the Commission had already achieved the goal of universal primary education and that many others were on track, and encouraged those members that had not yet achieved the goal to devise necessary strategies for reaching the poorest and most marginalized groups, and to seek, where appropriate, alternative formal and non-formal approaches to learning. The Commission invited members as well as relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts to implement the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and also invited the international community to continue to lend financial support to those efforts. The Commission encouraged members of the Commission to strengthen their national and professional educational institutions with respect to expanding their capacity and developing reliable literacy data. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assess the implementation of the Plan of Action and report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 62/8.

Resolution 62/9
Regional follow-up to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

17. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reaffirmed its support for the issues identified by the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] for follow-up action, and stressed that the successful implementation depended on shared responsibility and strengthened partnerships, including with civil society and the private sector, and, in this regard, invited members and subregional, regional and international organizations to support the efforts of small island developing States to address issues of national and regional sustainable development. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to ensure that the activities of the Commission took into account the special needs of the small island developing States; to disseminate information on economic and social developments; to provide regional inputs into the final review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; and to

[2] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

report to the Commission at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of resolution 62/9.

Resolution 62/10
Strengthening statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific

18. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific invited members and associate members to give priority to the strengthening of their official statistical systems, and encouraged members and relevant international organizations with advanced statistical systems to share their expertise for the benefit of other countries in the region. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to assist in the development of statistical systems; to provide assistance in strengthening the capacity to monitor progress towards the Millennium Development Goals; to facilitate implementation of international statistical standards; to facilitate regional discussion and sharing of good practices; to facilitate the coordination of international capacity-building activities; to facilitate dissemination of data, including by providing a user-friendly platform for assessing socio-economic and environmental indicators; to coordinate with regional and international agencies in the collection of official statistical data so as to avert duplication of effort; and to report to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of resolution 62/10.

Resolution 62/11
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

19. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[5] so that the least developed countries of Asia and the Pacific would be able to attain internationally agreed development goals, and recognized the need for coherent results-based national development strategies aimed at poverty reduction and implementation of policies leading to sustainable development. The Commission emphasized the need for the exercise of greater political will by the least developed countries, as well as continued commitment by their development partners, in respect of addressing challenges, and took note of the recommendations of the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, held in Bangkok in March 2006, and, in this regard, requested members to fulfil their commitments.

20. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, and in close coordination with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations: to ensure that the Commission's activities took into account the special needs of the least developed countries; to disseminate information on economic and social development for submission to the Commission's thematic committees and intergovernmental committees; to explore with donors the possibility of establishing a fund to support participation of least developed countries in key meetings of the Commission; to assist least developed countries in the formulation of development strategies; to provide regional inputs into the final review of the implementation of the Programme of Action; and to report to the

[5] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

Commission on the implementation of resolution 62/11 at its sixty-fourth session through the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Resolution 62/12
Strengthening Pacific island developing countries and territories through regional cooperation

21. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific requested the Executive Secretary, within existing resources, to take into account, consistent with the mandate of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific Pacific Operations Centre and the Commission's programme of work, the development approach of regionalism and the priorities set out in the Pacific Plan for Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Integration in technical cooperation activities; to undertake analysis and provide technical assistance aimed at building the capacity of Pacific island developing countries to benefit from their relations with countries of Asia in trade and investment; to investigate, in conjunction with relevant Pacific tourism bodies, options for a forum to share Asia and Pacific experiences in tourism development, to be held in 2007; and to promote the South-South cooperation mechanism to assist Pacific island developing countries in implementing the Mauritius Strategy and the Pacific Plan with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Decision 62/1
Deferment of consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management until the sixty-third session of the Commission

22. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution, submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific centre for information, communication and space technology-enabled disaster management, until the sixty-third session of the Commission.

Decision 62/2
Procedure followed in the adoption of the draft report of the sixty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

23. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted the draft report on its sixty-second session, noting that, except for statements introduced by the phrase "the Commission elected" or by the phrase "the Commission endorsed", all statements therein referred to views expressed by one or more delegations, and not to official views or decisions of the Commission.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

24. At its thirty-first session held in Montevideo from 20 to 24 March 2006, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted several resolutions, which are hereinunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 615 (XXXI)
International migration

25. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the report entitled "International migration, human rights and development", prepared by the secretariat, and recommended the publication of the material on which that report had been based so that it would be available for the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in September 2006; and requested the Executive Secretary to form an inter-agency group to be in charge of follow-up to issues relating to international migration and development in the region and of fostering coordination and coherence among the activities carried out in this field by specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration and other intergovernmental institutions.

Resolution 624 (XXXI)
Support for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

26. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed its appreciation for the participation of the countries of the region in activities for the reconstruction of Haiti; recognized the efforts undertaken by the secretariat of the Commission in favour of this country; called for both undertakings to be reinforced in order to encompass all the spheres envisaged in the mandate of the Mission in Haiti, granting special importance to that country's economic and social development; and recommended that cooperation activities conducted with Haiti be continued and broadened in close coordination with its Government.

Resolution 625 (XXXI)
Activities in relation to follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals

27. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean requested the secretariat to continue to conduct activities in the areas of research and technical assistance for Latin American and Caribbean Governments in collaboration with the United Nations system, including the coordination of annual regional reports placing emphasis each year on the advances made towards achieving the targets relating to one development goal in particular, in the context of the reduction of hunger and poverty; and the coordination in 2010 of a regional inter-agency report summing up the progress made during 2006-2010 regarding all the targets included in the Millennium Development Goals.

Resolution 626 (XXXI)
Montevideo resolution on shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity

28. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean welcomed the document produced by the secretariat entitled "Shaping the future of social protection: access, financing and solidarity", considering it to be an important and timely contribution to the review of the situation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in their current phase of development; welcomed the ideas proposed by the secretariat for harmonizing social and economic rights agendas and financial restrictions in a period like the current one, in which it was necessary to expand competitiveness and strengthen integration with the world economy; and noted that

those proposals upheld respect for citizens' rights, especially the principles of universality and solidarity, which should be taken into account in social protection reforms through the integration of social security and public systems; in the expansion of health systems to ensure universal and compulsory coverage and the definition of packages of guaranteed and enforceable services; in the increase in the coverage of the pension systems by an increase of the non-contributory component and solidarity in the contributory component; and in the necessary complementarity of short-term poverty alleviation and the eradication of poverty's more patently structural causes through incentives for human capital formation, with a view to ending the cycle of the intergenerational transmission of poverty.

Resolution 628 (XXXI)
Admission of the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

29. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean approved the admission of the Turks and Caicos Islands as an associate member of the Commission.

C. Economic Commission for Africa

30. At its thirty-ninth session, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted three resolutions and a ministerial statement, which are hereunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 844 (XXXIX)
Repositioning the Economic Commission for Africa to better respond to Africa's priorities

31. The Economic Commission for Africa recognized the fundamental role that the Commission, including its subregional offices, continued to play in the promotion of subregional, regional and international cooperation for Africa's development, as evidenced by its normative work and operational activities which were mutually complementary and supportive to member States, the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the subregional economic communities and other regional institutions, as well as its team leadership and responsibility for coordination of entities of the United Nations system for great coherence. The Commission welcomed the note by the Secretariat on repositioning ECA (E/ECA/CM.39/7), and commended the Executive Secretary for taking this major initiative. The Commission endorsed the strategic direction, the guiding principles and proposals contained in the note, and requested the Executive Secretary to take necessary measures to implement these proposals in order to reflect them in the Commission's biennial programme plan for 2008-2009, and realign its intergovernmental, programme and organizational structures accordingly. The Commission invited the Secretary-General to support the Commission's renewal and reform process by providing ECA with adequate resources so that it could scale up its operations through enhanced support to member States and strengthen its partnership with the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank and the subregional economic communities.

Resolution 845 (XXXIX)
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

32. The Economic Commission for Africa encouraged African countries to pursue their efforts in the alignment of their respective second-generation national action plans, and invited African Governments to establish a conducive environment that would promote broad-based stakeholder participation and strengthen the role of the private sector in the mobilization of domestic resources. The Commission invited Africa's partners, especially the international financial institutions, to assist African countries in the alignment of their poverty reduction strategies to the Millennium Development Goals, and encouraged those development partners to align development assistance to national priority programmes. The Commission requested the ECA secretariat to assist African countries in strengthening their capacities in the area of data collection and statistical analyses with a view to their developing performance indicators for the tracking of the Millennium Development Goals.

Resolution 846 (XXXIX)
African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

33. The Economic Commission for Africa reaffirmed the importance of a coordinated, comprehensive approach to Africa's research and training agenda based on an effective, coherent strategy and a results-oriented division of labour among the major regional organizations and other training institutions on the continent. The Commission also reaffirmed the relevance of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in undertaking demand-driven training activities for African Governments, public organizations and the private sector in view of the growing importance of capacity-building for member States and the relevance of training-related research activities offered by the Institute within its mandate. The Commission stressed the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutions and relevant national, regional and international training institutions. The Commission welcomed the progress made in integrating the Institute into the ECA work programme and in building partnerships between the Institute and major pan-African institutions, the subregional economic communities and other bodies of the United Nations system in respect of the training programmes and, in this context, underlined the need to develop further and expand the scope of such partnerships, in particular at the country level, with a view to ensuring that the Institute continued to remain a centre of excellence for training in Africa. The Commission encouraged the Governing Council of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and increasing the contributions made to the general operating budget of the Institute. The Commission emphasized the need for member States to strengthen their support to the Institute by paying their assessed contributions regularly. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary of ECA, in consultation with the United Nations Secretary-General, to make proposals for alleviating the Institute's current financial difficulties, which were aggravated by the current provision of a grant instead of adequate United Nations regular budget resources, taking into account that similar United Nations training institutes enjoyed such a privilege; and also requested the Executive Secretary to report to it at its fortieth session in 2007 on the implementation of the present resolution, including a report on the status of contributions to, and the financial situation of, the Institute.

Summary of the ministerial statement, 15 May 2006, Ouagadougou

34. The African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development reviewed progress made in fulfilling the recommendations of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the 2004 Extraordinary Summit of the African Union Heads of State and Government, and recognized the need to: (a) further refine and accelerate implementation strategies at all levels; (b) ensure that a majority of Africans benefited from improved economic growth and macroeconomic conditions by generating more decent jobs, reducing the number of the working poor, maximizing the potentials of the African labour force through integrated human resource development programmes, and eliminating barriers to the entry of women and youth into the labour market; and (c) align the various processes in the poverty reduction strategies towards realizing economic and social objectives in member States, especially the Millennium Development Goals, and integrate decent employment into the design, implementation and monitoring of second-generation poverty reduction strategies.

35. The main elements of the ministerial statement are summarized below. The Ministers endorsed the following broad recommendations:

(a) Mainstream employment in the development agenda as the way forward in respect of creating decent jobs in Africa, and commit to explicitly incorporating employment objectives in national development strategies and policies, as well as further embed employment criteria in investment promotion policies;

(b) Increase efforts towards domestic resource mobilization and improve the quality of public finance management, while calling upon development partners to honour aid commitments to African countries and fully implement and expand the 2005 G8 Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative;

(c) Commit to regional integration as a major driver of economic development and job creation, and in this regard, ratify protocols on the movement of people, goods, services and capital;

(d) To meet the special needs of countries emerging from conflict, ECA, in close collaboration with the African Union and the African Development Bank, should set up a technical capacity-building and funding initiative with relevant stakeholders to support employment-generation and re-establish economic development management systems. In this regard, development partners should provide a special "window of opportunities" that would enable post-conflict societies to access resources needed for critical recovery and reconstruction activities;

(e) Take measures to improve the operations of the private sector, through: infrastructure improvement, elimination of unnecessary and costly regulations, provision of affordable credit, and greater investment in research and development and, where appropriate, explore public-private partnerships, especially in the areas of health, education and skills development;

(f) ECA, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization and African regional institutions, should establish a regional employment forum of technical experts and policy facilitators to assist member States in developing capacity and facilitate learning and sharing of country-specific experiences;

(g) Stimulate structural transformation and diversification by adopting growth-oriented macro- and microeconomic policies; identifying and promoting labour-absorbing sectors; enhancing labour mobility in tandem with reallocation of investments; exploiting information and communication technologies as a productivity-enhancing tool; and pursuing an integrated rural development approach involving both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors;

(h) Commit to increasing resources to strengthen capacities to formulate, implement and monitor employment policies; strengthen national statistical offices and legislative reforms to ensure timely, reliable and gender-disaggregated statistics; and undertake other innovative and cost-effective statistical surveys so as to foster a better understanding of the labour market.

Other outcomes

36. The Ministers welcomed the focus of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council to be held in Geneva from 3 to 5 July 2006, on "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development", and indicated their commitment to a strong African partnership and support to the forthcoming discussion.

37. They expressed their pleasure regarding the Commission's commitment to partnering with the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Development Bank, the International Labour Organization, the subregional economic communities and other key stakeholders in promoting employment-generation strategies in Africa.[1]

38. They also welcomed the initiative of the Executive Secretary of ECA and commended his vision and the boldness of the proposals he had advanced for repositioning the Commission so as to improve the delivery of its services to member States in response to the 2005 World Summit Outcome.[1]

D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

39. At its twenty-fourth session held in Beirut from 8 to 11 May 2006, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia adopted a number of resolutions, which are hereinunder brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 269 (XXIV)
The role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome document and the subsequent change process

40. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia reaffirmed the important role that the Commission played, as the regional arm of the United Nations in Western Asia, in supporting social and economic cooperation between the countries of the region and affirmed that regional integration was the Commission's overriding objective. The Commission, having noted with satisfaction that the draft strategic framework for 2008-2009 (E/ESCWA/24/6 (Part III)) had addressed the main critical areas of importance and the priorities identified in the 2005 World

[1] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Summit Outcome document and by the high-level expert meeting on the future role of ESCWA, adopted the draft strategic framework. The Commission also approved the changes introduced into its programme of work for the biennium (E/ESCWA/24/6 (part II)), and called upon member countries to work towards the achievement of the goals endorsed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document as an integral part of their national strategies. The Commission urged all United Nations entities working in the region to provide coordinated support and requested the Executive Secretary to increase coherence with United Nations and other regional organizations, in particular the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council, and to report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the progress in the implementation of resolution 269 (XXIV).

Resolution 270 (XXIV)
Macroeconomic policy for financial stability

41. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia urged member countries to take appropriate macroeconomic policy measures and develop regulatory frameworks so as to stabilize and promote orderly performance in financial markets. The Commission requested the secretariat to identify and assess the possible consequences of financial market instability, and to widely disseminate its forecasts and policy recommendations. The Commission also requested Governments of member countries with funding deficits to improve their legal and regulatory frameworks so as to encourage intraregional investment, while requesting Governments with surplus capital to raise the level of capital flows within the region by reducing investment controls and increasing diversification.

Resolution 271 (XXIV)
Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development

42. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia requested member countries to intensify efforts to attain peace, security and stability at the regional and international levels. The Commission also requested the ESCWA secretariat to intensify its endeavours to enhance the capacity of member countries to respond to the socio-economic and political challenges posed by conflict through monitoring and reporting on the repercussions of conflict and identifying potential sources of conflict; implementing operational activities for rehabilitation; forging partnerships between stakeholders and regional/international counterparts; identifying development needs of member countries and incorporating them into the work programmes of the Commission; assisting in the improvement of good governance; and supporting activities of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Commission also called upon the Executive Secretary to affirm the independence of approaches to issues and mobilize additional resources to support activities. The Commission requested the international community to lift the economic, political and financial embargo imposed on the Palestinian people and provide necessary assistance, and appealed to donors to contribute to ESCWA in order to enable it to carry out the requisite activities. The Executive Secretary was also requested to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the progress achieved in this regard.

Resolution 272 (XXIV)
Youth employment in member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

43. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia called upon member countries to include youth policies in their national development strategies in order to limit the migration of a skilled and creative workforce, and also to make available accurate national statistics on youth unemployment, and to establish databases and prepare reports, with a view to devising appropriate policies. The Commission requested the secretariat to propose main regional indicators and incorporate them into development indicators, including those in the Millennium Development Goals, and also to devise a mechanism for the establishment of a system to provide information on Arab labour markets so as to facilitate the identification of appropriate employment opportunities for youth. The Commission urged member countries to encourage the exchange of labour, and thereby help to circulate financial resources within the region, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session a report on the progress made in implementing resolution 272 (XXIV).

Resolution 273 (XXIV)
Follow-up to the development of the information society in Western Asia

44. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia called upon the secretariat to provide member countries with technical assistance in implementing the relevant plans of actions through workshops, advisory services and other means of technical cooperation in areas related to the formulation and implementation of national information and communication technologies (ICT) strategies and capacity-building plans of action aimed at promoting the collection of core ICT indicators in support of policymaking at national and regional levels; in devising mechanisms to foster multi-stakeholder partnerships; and in facilitating implementation of ICT applications for socio-economic development. The Commission appealed to Governments, the private sector and civil society to contribute to these endeavours with a view to promoting regional cooperation and creating equal opportunities for the growth of the ICT sector in Western Asia. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on follow-up to the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on 18 November 2005.[2]

Resolution 274 (XXIV)
The establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre

45. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia approved in principle the establishment of the ESCWA Technology Centre as considered in report E/ESCWA/ICTD/2006/WP.1 (Arabic only), and requested the secretariat to follow up with member countries with respect to the hosting of the Centre and securing its sources of finance. The Commission also requested the secretariat to take the necessary actions aimed at establishing the Centre and to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session in that regard.

[2] See A/60/687.

Resolution 275 (XXIV)
Technical cooperation, partnership development and resource mobilization

46. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia requested the secretariat to continue implementing the ESCWA Technical Cooperation Strategy and to launch the technical cooperation information and knowledge-sharing network. The Commission invited member countries and the donor community to take an active part in the work of the secretariat on promoting partnerships and resource mobilization so as to operationalize the findings of the normative and analytical work. The Commission approved the multi-year funding plan and requested donors within and outside the United Nations system to contribute through voluntary annual contributions to the ESCWA Trust Fund for Regional Activities; agreements on projects/activities between ESCWA and donors; or agreements for in-kind cooperation and support. The Commission requested the secretariat to prepare a specific plan of action for partnership development and resource mobilization, and requested the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its the twenty-fifth session on the implementation of resolution 275 (XXIV).

Resolution 276 (XXIV)
Strengthening statistical capacities in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region

47. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia called upon member countries to improve their national institutional statistical frame works in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission on 14 April 1994,[3] and urged member countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen their capacities for producing and disseminating reliable indicators of progress in achieving development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to support member countries in developing national capacities to improve the quality and comparability of qualitative statistics, particularly regarding the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and Millennium Development Goal-related issues, and called upon the secretariat to implement the strategic framework of the biennium 2008-2009 (E/ESCWA/24/6 (part III) with respect to the statistics subprogramme. The Commission requested the secretariat to meet the increasing demand for statistical indicators at the regional and international levels by supporting the efforts of member countries to develop their national capacities, and to continue developing repositories of data to be made available for public access and evidence-based policymaking. The Commission urged donors to support ESCWA in its efforts to assist member countries and requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the progress made in that regard.

Resolution 277 (XXIV)
Social development policies

48. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia urged member countries to adopt an integrated social policy approach and called upon member

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9* (E/1994/29), chap. V, para. 59.

countries to make use of the Commission's analytical activities and technical and advisory services. The Commission requested the secretariat to follow up implementation of these policies in member countries, and also to organize an Arab forum for social policies. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the progress made in implementing resolution 277 (XXIV).

Resolution 278 (XXIV)
Increasing women's involvement in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peacebuilding

49. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia affirmed the need for member countries and the secretariat to accord the requisite importance in their plans and programmes to the exceptional needs of women living in unstable conditions, and called upon the secretariat to examine the situation of women in the ESCWA member countries that had suffered from conflict and build their capacities in conflict resolution. The Commission urged member countries to increase the representation of women at all levels and requested the Executive Secretary to submit a report to the Commission at its twenty-fifth session on the progress made in implementing resolution 278 (XXIV).

Resolution 279 (XXIV)
Follow-up to implementation of components of the integrated transport system in the Arab Mashreq

50. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia urged member countries to take practical steps to complete, by the time specified, the implementation of the plan of action for the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq and also to initiate the implementation of the plan of action for the Agreement on International Railways in the Arab Mashreq. The Commission further urged member countries to ratify, approve or accede to the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq and to implement its articles at the national and regional levels once it had entered into force. The Commission requested the secretariat to play a leading role in advocating the issue of road safety and to coordinate the Commission's activities during United Nations Global Road Safety Week, and also to submit an annual report to the Commission.